

REMARKS

Claims 34-36, 38, 39, and 41-63 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 34, 35, and 53-63 are allowed. Claims 36-39 have been rejected. Claims 40-52 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 36, 38-39, 41, 43, and 44 have been amended. Claims 37 and 40 have been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Objection to Claim 39

Claim 39 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 39 has been amended to depend from claim 36.

II. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,041,050 to Sanders in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,852,428 to Ishikawa. Claim 36 has been amended to include the elements of claim 40, which has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 36 is now in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders in view of Ishikawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,132 to Linsky. Claim 37 has been cancelled.

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders in view of Ishikawa in view of Linsky and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,704,715 to Shibagaki. Claim 38 has been amended to depend from claim 36.

III. Allowable Claims

Claims 40-52 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described above, claim 36 has been amended to include the elements from claim 40, and claim 40 has been cancelled. Claims 41-52 depend from claim 36. Accordingly, claims 41-52 are now in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 41-52 is respectfully requested.

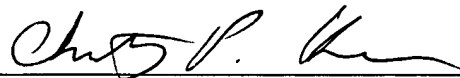
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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